

Task Force on Medical Cannabis Therapeutic Research Meeting minutes

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022 (9:30AM-11:30AM)

MINUTES PREPARED BY: NIKKI JENSEN

LOCATION: VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

Attendance

- Sen. Mark Koran (Co-Chair)
- Sen. Melisa Lopez Franzen
- Rep. Heather Edelson (Co-Chair)
- Rep. Nolan West
- Comm. Jan Malcolm
- Tara Holt
- Maren Schroeder
- Erin Chase
- Jessica Hauser
- Gwen Verchota, PhD, CNP
- Bruce Bostrom, MD
- Ann Hoekstra, PharmD
- Chris Caulk
- Brian Peters
- Janet Reiter
- Charles Reznikoff, MD
- Charles Hilger Jr., MSW, LADC

Excused

- Comm. John Harrington
- John Swenson
- Katie Kennedy
- Dean Gilbertson
- Mary Gilbert, RN

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions by Co-Chair Sen. Mark Koran
- Sen. Mark Koran moved approval of minutes from July 2020, Motion prevailed
- General program update given by Chris Tholkes
 - Shared preliminary results from Patient Satisfaction Survey, cost of registration and products a significant barrier for patients and MN has by far the highest registration fee in US

- 2021 Legislation
 - 2021 legislative update given by Darin Teske
 - Overview of policy proposals, update on rulemaking progress for dried raw cannabis
 - MDH would like explicit authority on track and trace system
 - Addition of edibles to program as approved delivery method
 - Dried raw cannabis updates from manufacturers
 - Kyle Kingsley, MD gave update from Vireo Health
 - Priority to lower prices with addition of dried raw cannabis, dependent on patient demand
 - Buck McAlpin gave update from Leafline Industries
 - Leafline sold to Green Thumb Industries, looking at adding a large grow facility in Cottage Grove
 - Dried raw cannabis update from testing labs
 - Tom Barrett (Legend) and Roger Pearson (Aspen) – both have concern about labs being required to do all sampling
- Challenges/issues and proposed policy solutions
 - Rep. Rod Hamilton – What can we do to put pressure on federal gov't. to change scheduling of cannabis (cannabis users considered criminals to feds)
 - Sen. Mark Koran – Concerns about Delta-8 products being sold widely
 - Maren Schroeder – Delta-9 from hemp not regulated or tested, scared CBD products will be pulled from shelves, would like to task force to hold meeting on hemp products
 - Erin Chase – Concerns about outside CBD products being sold in CPCs
 - Maren Schroeder – Working on legislation to protect patients from employment discrimination, and allowing patients to defend any criminal charges with their patient status
 - Erin Chase – Can we further discuss the current situation of only 2 manufacturers being allowed in MN? Would like to allow for more but still be MN-focused. Can we revisit being able to put strain names on packaging for patients to better understand what they are using?

Action items

- Legislators asked to bring any bills being presented on cannabis to the task force so all are aware
- Consider doing smaller workgroups before next task force meeting to discuss adding manufacturers and changes to packaging – Rep. Edelson and Tholkes to meet about this

Next meeting

Date: March 2022 (possibly February 2022) – Exact date TBD

Time: TBD

Location: Zoom

Agenda items: (submit proposed agenda items to Health.MedCann.TaskForce@state.mn.us)

- Discuss lowering the registration fee for patients
- Discuss Delta products
- Continue discussion on adding manufacturers in MN

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